



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 6, 2006

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NOGALES MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED HAND GRENADES

PHOENIX – Sergio Noriega, 44, of Nogales, Ariz., was sentenced here yesterday to 30 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Earl H. Carroll. Noriega had pleaded guilty on May 31, 2005, to two counts of Possession of Unregistered Firearms.

On July 20, 2004, Noriega contacted an ATF undercover agent to inquire about purchasing hand grenades. During the course of negotiations over the following week, Noriega explained to the agent that his partners were “mafia” in Mexico who were involved in growing marijuana and distributing marijuana and cocaine. Noriega discussed with the agent the explosive power and potential kill range of hand grenades and asked the agent if the grenades were capable of blowing up two vehicles.

Noriega also discussed purchasing automatic machine guns from the agent. During a meeting in Phoenix on July 23, 2004, Noriega showed the agent a photocopy of two .50 caliber rifles and told the agent he needed them to shoot down helicopters. On July 27, 2004, in Phoenix, Noriega paid agents \$6,000 in cash for a box containing 30 grenades. Noriega was arrested shortly thereafter.

The investigation in this case was conducted by ATF. The prosecution was handled by Bill Solomon, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-0865-PHX-EHC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-002(Noriega)

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